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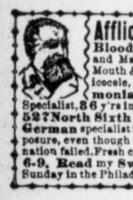
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THE GERMAN CAPITAL.

Berlin One of the Cleanest and Best Kept Cities In Europe.

According to consular reports, Berlin, although a busy manufacturing city, is one of the cleanest and best kept in Europe. The smokeless condition of the Berlin atmosphere is ascribed to three facts—the preponderant use of coke and briquettes, which are practically smokeless; the skillful scientific construction of boiler furnaces and chimneys and, finally, the high standard of skill that is taught and enforced among firemen who stoke furnaces with coal for steam and manufacturing purposes. Before a man can assume such a charge he must be taught the theory and practice of economical, scientific firing, by which the coal is distributed in such a manner and quantity over the grate surface as to secure the most perfect combustion of its volatile elements. The Silesian coal used in Berlin in most large steam plants and factories is rich in bitumen, but would rank below many of the bituminous coals of the United States, and yet the long, dense, trailing clouds of smoke from mill and factory chimneys which are so familiar a sight to many American cities are rarely seen in that section of Germany, where the indiscriminate shoveling of raw bituminous coal into the steam and other furnaces is considered an ignorant and wasteful proceeding.

Your Husband's Cravats.

To the woman who must buy her husband's cravats I want to say a word by way of advice—don't do it, says a writer in the Haberdasher. If you really must buy your husband's cravats, do not try to get a cravat so warm that it will feel like a mustard plaster on his chest. That might be good for his bronchial tubes, but it might endanger his chances of ultimate redemption. It would perhaps stave off throat trouble, but it would be apt to produce family trouble, which is a good deal worse.

Let him pick out his own cravats, and then he alone will be to blame for them. He may not know much about the harmony of colors, but he is not likely, nevertheless, to pick out a cravat that will hurt the eyes of the spectators like a limelight at a championship glove contest. He may not know what he wants, but he knows what he does not want, and ten to one, if you have seen something at the cravat counter that you think is perfectly lovely, that is it.

Keep Accounts.

Keeping accounts, simple in form, plain, clear and easily understood, showing amounts due to or from others, entering correctly the dates on which money is paid out or received, is the best plan to avoid disputes about money matters and relieves the memory of many unnecessary burdens. A written record of a money transaction has greater legal value in case of controversy in court than any verbal statement.

The habit of keeping accounts induces economy in expenditure and inspires the habit of saving up, besides showing at all times a correct financial condition. Housekeepers, mechanics and all who handle money in the management of their personal affairs will find it most profitable to form the habit of keeping accounts.

How the Rash Comes.

In measles a rash appears on the fourth day of the fever. It is first seen on the forehead, face and neck, afterward over the whole body. It consists of raised red spots. In scarlet fever the rash appears on the second day of the fever, commencing on the upper part of the chest and neck, whence it spreads over the body. In smallpox an eruption is seen on the third or fourth day on the face, neck and wrists. In chicken pox the eruption is made of small blebs. In typhoid fever the rash rarely shows itself before the seventh day of the fever. The spots are rose colored, and they disappear on pressure.

Henty's Young Critic.

G. A. Henty, the writer for youth, frequently got letters from admirers all over the world asking for his autograph and offering criticisms of his books. In a story of the peninsular war he made two boys disguise themselves by staining their faces with iodine. Shortly after the book was published he received a letter from a boy, who said he was a chemist's assistant, stating that while that special incident was represented as taking place in 1808 iodine was not discovered until 1811, three years after.

Fickle.

Tommy—Lil Greenup, you told me last week you liked me better'n you did any other boy, an' now you're lettin' Dick Trotter shine up to you.

Lil—I did like you best last week, but I've changed my mind. Does your papa keep a candy store?

Tommy—No.

Lil—Well, Dick's does.—Chicago Tribune.

Quick Relief.

Mrs. Trubbles—Doctor, can you do anything for my husband?

Doctor—What is the matter?

Mrs. Trubbles—Worrying about money.

Doctor—Oh, I can relieve him of that all right.

The Main Thing.

Ted—Madge is the loveliest little thing you ever saw. Why, that girl is worth a million.

Ned—But has she got it?—New York Times.

Poverty is a grindstone on which many wits are sharpened. — Chicago News

The first shell was used in warfare by the sultan of Gujerat, India, in 1480.

ZOLA'S EARLY TRIALS.

Times When the Budding Author Was Plunged In Misery.

Young Zola had kicked his heels for several years in ministerial anterooms, but all to no effect. Gambetta, to prevent Zola perishing of want, gave him the subprefecture of Castle Sarrasin. But for want of money he had to stop on the way, and for so long a time that M. de Freycinet slipped into the place. Zola, during the period dealt with in "La Débâcle" was in the south of France. How he then lived I cannot imagine. After things settled down in Paris in 1871 he had fallen into the blackest misery, and with a beautiful young wife. Her mother was no longer able to share her domicile and board, such as they were, with them.

Zola sometimes had to take the wool out of the mattress of his bed and sell it. He escaped from death by famine owing to a letter of introduction from a doctor who attended his mother to Hachette, the great publisher. The latter employed him at a salary of 60 francs a month to tie up books in parcels and address them. But he rather liked Zola and, divining in him first rate stuff, engaged him to write for the papers those puffs known as reclames for books the firm had brought out. Noticing his punctuality and his reserve with other young men, Hachette promoted Zola still higher by making him his private secretary. He was then an uncouth, shy, ill dressed, mannerless, squat little fellow, but he evidently had a tidy wife, who paid great attention to the furbishing up of his clothes and to his shirts. — London Truth.

Ruin In Crossed Legs.

"Uncross your legs," said a doctor.

"Oh, no!" said his son. "What's the use of being so polite all the time?"

"My boy," the father answered, "it is not on account of a mere rule of etiquette that I tell you to uncross your legs, but it is because leg crossing is an injurious thing, a thing as baleful to the health as kissing or as microbes.

"When you cross your legs, you fit the knee cap of the upper limb into the cavity under the knee of the lower one. In the cavity that you thus compress there are the two important exterior and interior popliteal nerves and a number of glands and blood vessels. Compression does not act well on these organs. It benumbs them and weakens and emaciates them. You feel the injury in a numbness of the whole leg. The leg goes to sleep.

"Keep on with the habit, and your legs weaken. They become thin; they lose their shapeliness. It is only such men and women and children as never cross their legs who have strong and supple and beautiful limbs."—Philadelphia Record.

His Portrait.

One of the members of a certain suburban photographic society recently delivered a lecture, illustrated by lantern views.

Another member, thinking to have a joke at the expense of the lecturer, slipped in among the slides a lantern portrait of himself.

The joke would come in, of course, by the portrait appearing on the screen immediately after the lecturer had announced the appearing of something quite different.

Fate and chance were unluckily against the humorist, for when his portrait was presented the lecturer, without knowing what was on the screen, gravely read from his list:

"The next slide, ladies and gentlemen, is the picture of a refractory donkey."

Minnesota's Nicknames.

Minnesota has been designated as the "North Star State," of which expression two or three explanations have been given—one on account of its geographical position, another that the north star appears in its coat of arms. It has also been called the "Lake State," from the number of small lakes within its limits, and the "Gopher State," because the early settlers found these animals in such abundance that they proved a serious nuisance. Even a careful rider passing over a plain where gophers abounded was in danger of being thrown by his horse accidentally stepping into a gopher hole.

His Exact Age.

Asked his age in a court of justice, a Georgia darky replied:

"Well, suh, I ez ole ez de big white oak tree on Marse Tom's plantation."

"And how old may that be?" inquired a lawyer.

"Well, suh, ef I makes no mistakes, de white oak tree is de same age ez de mill dam, en de mill dam ain't a day older dan de red barn, what come nigh ter bein' burned up w'en de stars felled!" —Atlanta Constitution.

Speeding the Parting.

Mamma—I was surprised and shocked by the coldness with which you greeted Miss Boersum when she called.

Ethel—Yes, mamma, but I made up for it later.

Mamma—Did you?

Ethel—Yes, indeed. You should have seen how cordially I bade her "good-by."—Philadelphia Press.

Transmigration.

"So dey convicted dat feller dat was swinging a high society bluff so as to lift jewelry," said Plodding Pete.

"Yes," answered Meandering Mike. "He's got his prison clothes on now. Dey've changed him from a social lion into a zebra."—Washington Star.

The Higher Allegiance to Hymen.

A St. Louis man disregarded a summons to serve on a jury because his marriage to a St. Louis woman had been set for the same hour. He thought he knew which court order to obey.—Richmond Times.

MIXED THE LETTERS.

Serious Result of a Fool Man Trying to Be Facetious.

A well known citizen of Clay Center had been invited to an evening party. He wanted to go, but his wife declared that she had no gown suitable for the occasion and asked him to send "regrets" to their hostess. The man went down to his office and penned this facetious note of declination:

"We regret that your kind invitation must be declined for all the conventional reasons, but the real reason is that half the family has nothing to wear. My wife's latest dress is over three weeks old, and her hat is twelve hours out of date. You will appreciate the hopelessness of the occasion and excuse us."

He thought this pretty good, and he determined to write a note to his wife also explaining that he would not be at home for an early dinner, as she had asked him. He said in this note:

"I have turned down your invitation because I am going out to another evening party where the guests are not expected to wear anything of importance. Sorry I won't be there to kiss you good night."

And then the fool man carelessly sent his wife's note to the hostess and the hostess' note to his wife.—Clay Center Times.

"Mercuriale Swords."

When was it usual to insert running mercury in the backs of swords?

This was a comparatively common practice among the Italian, French and Spanish swordmakers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but it was more of a fancy than anything else, for it never came into general use. It was not, of course, used for rapiers or the lighter kind of swords, but for the heavier cutting swords.

The method was to cast the blade rather broader at the back than usual, with a hollow running down it. This was half filled with quicksilver and sealed up. The idea was that when a blow was struck with such a sword the quicksilver would fly to the point and so increase the weight of the blow. This theoretical advantage, however, did not at all counterbalance the general clumsiness of the weapon and its unhandiness in guarding, and so the mercuriale swords, as they were called, from which their ingenious inventor hoped so much, were rather military curiosities than practical successes.—London Answers.

Something to Be Thankful For.

A Scotchman who has a keen appreciation of the strong characteristics of his countrymen delights in the story of a druggist known both for his thrift and his philosophy.

Once he was aroused from a deep sleep by the ringing of his night bell. He went down to his little shop and sold a dose of rather nauseous medicine to a distressed customer.

"What profit do you make out o' that?" grumbled his wife.

"A ha'penny," was the cheerful answer.

"And for that bit o' money you'll lie awake maybe an hour," she said impatiently.

"Never grumble o'er that, wonnie," was his placid answer. "The dose will keep him awake all night. We must thank heaven we ha' the profit and none o' the pain o' this transaction."

A Primitive Clock.

A naturalist, while visiting Great Sangir, one of those islands of the Indian ocean known as the Celebes, or Spice islands, found a curious time recorder lodged at the house of a rajah. Two bottles were firmly lashed together and fixed in a wooden frame. A quantity of black sand ran from one bottle into the other in just half an hour, and when the upper bottle was empty the frame was reversed. Twelve short sticks, marked with notches from one to twelve, were hung upon a string. A hook was placed between the stick bearing the number of notches corresponding to the hour last struck and the one to be struck next. The sentry announced the time by striking the hours on a large gong.

Conspiracy.

"Squibob, you are still reporting for the Daily Bread, aren't you?"

"Yes."

"Say, I am going to spend the evening with the daughter of old Professor Noett, and he doesn't like me a bit. I want you to help me through."

"Me? What can I do to help you?"

"Call on him in his study about 8 o'clock and ask him this question: 'Professor, to what do you attribute the decay of Darwinism?'"

"What good will that do?"

"He'll spend the whole evening arguing to prove that Darwinism isn't decaying."—Chicago Tribune.

Johnny's Awful Predicament.

Johnny—I wish my folks would agree upon one thing and not keep me all the time in a worry.

Tommy—What have they been doing now?

Johnny—Mother won't let me stand on my head, and dad is all the time fussing because I wear my shoes out so fast.—Boston Transcript.

Grammatical.

Mr. Kallow—Er—beg pardon, Miss Snappe, but can I smoke?

Miss Snappe—I'm sure I don't know, but if you've never tried before please don't begin here.—Philadelphia Press.

Both Sides.

Doctor's Little Girl—Your papa owes my papa money.

Lawyer's Little Girl—That's nothing. Papa said he was glad to get off with his life.—Baltimore American.

Some men start wrong and are late at every station all through life.—Atchison Globe.

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